

REMARKS CONCERNING THE AMENDMENTS

The above amendments were made in an effort to more clearly define the present invention and to place the Application into better condition for allowance.

SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

- 1) Claims 16-27 are pending in this Application.
- 2) Claims 16-21 and 26 are allowed.
- 3) Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,683,085)
- 4) Claims 24, 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Johnson et al. (as applied in paragraph 3 above) and further in view of Meissner (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,546).
- 5) Claims 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION**RECEIVED
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1) Claims 16-27 are pending in this Application.

Applicants concur that at the time of Examination, claims 1-27 were pending.

2) Claims 16-21 and 26 are allowed.

Applicants express their appreciation for the allowance of these original claims.

3) Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Johnson et al.
(U.S. Patent No. 5,683,085)

Claim 22 has been amended to read that:

“..., the card delivery shoe having a card reading sensor and communication link to a memory so that individual cards are read for at least one of rank, suit or value after the cards are removed from the card in-feed area and before the cards become stationary in the card delivery area.”

There is no disclosure in Johnson of card reading between the card infeed area and before cards become stationary in the card delivery area. This rejection is overcome by the amendment to Claim 22.

4) Claims 24, 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Johnson et al. (as applied in paragraph 3 above) and further in view of Meissner (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,546).

Claims 25 and 27 have been canceled, and claim 24 is now dependent from allowed claim 16.

5) Claims 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Claim 24 has been amended to overcome this rejection and claim 25 has been canceled.

CONCLUSION

All claims in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion of any remaining issues could advance this Application towards allowance, he/she is courteously invited to call the attorney of record at 952.832.9090 to discuss any such remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Their Representatives,

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Date: 31 March 2008

By: 

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on 31 MARCH 2008

Mark A. Litman
Name


Signature